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## India

**Post:** New Delhi

### 2014 Monsoon Forecast

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security

Cotton and Products

Grain and Feed

Oilseeds and Products

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**Report Highlights:**

On April 24, 2014, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a “below normal monsoon” prediction and forecast a 60-percent chance for an *el Niño* weather pattern during the 2014 southwest monsoon. The IMD forecast a 50-percent chance for deficit or below average precipitation levels based on India’s long-term average, as well as a 35-percent chance for monsoon rains to be relatively normal, and a one-percent chance for excessive seasonal precipitation.

## General Information:

### Forecast

On April 24, 2014, the IMD released its [long-range forecast](#), the initial forecast for the 2014 monsoon season (June-September). The IMD's forecast is based on its long-term average (LTA), an aggregate average of seasonal rainfall from 1950 to 2000 with a mean of 89 cm. The IMD forecast below average levels of precipitation during the 2014 monsoon season, predicting a 23-percent chance for deficit rainfall (below 90-percent of LTA), a 33-percent chance for below average rainfall (90 to 96 percent of LPA), a 35-percent chance for average rainfall (96 to 104 percent of LPA), and a one-percent chance for excessive rainfall (above 104 of LPA). The IMD noted that its best prediction is that monsoonal rainfall will be about 95-percent of the LPA (margin of error five-percent). The IMD added that warming sea surface temperatures over the Pacific's equatorial belt indicates a 60-percent chance for an *el Niño* pattern to affect India's 2014 monsoon season. *El Niño* monsoons are typically characterized by below average levels of rainfall. The IMD is expected to update its monsoon forecast in June 2014 and will issue monthly rainfall reports in July and August, as well as a seasonal rainfall report for the four main geographical regions of India (east, northeast, northwest, central, the southern Peninsula).

Poor monsoon rains can negatively affect agricultural production and create food price spikes. India's agricultural production in crop year 2013/14 (July-June) was generally higher due to above normal levels of precipitation. Normal and well-distributed monsoonal rainfall is crucial for rice, oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton, corn, and pulses, which are harvested following the monsoon during the *kharif* (fall) season. Typically, India's southwest monsoon provides 70-percent of India's total rainfall and irrigates 55-percent of its agricultural land.